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Emergency Flood Information

UNIV. OF NEBRASKA
FIRST AID FOR BEDDING AND HOUSEHOLD LINENS
LINCOLN 1 P 1977

JUN 03 1988

Margaret Boschetti, Extension Specialist (Interior Design & Home Furnishings)

STACKS

Mattresses

Discard mattresses soaked with flood water. Reconditioning of mattresses can be done only by a commercial renovating company. If in doubt about salvaging a mattress, contact a renovating company for their advice. If it is necessary to use the mattress temporarily, scrape off surface dirt and expose mattress to sunlight, heat and/or fans, to dry as much as possible. Cover with rubber sheeting before using.

Pillows

Down, feather and fiberfill. Follow manufacturer's directions for washing. Otherwise, machine wash (no more than two at one time) in warm water and mild detergent for 4 to 6 minutes. Rinse three times in warm water. Machine dry on low heat. Remove from dryer while still damp and line dry. Turn and fluff pillows frequently during line drying.

If ticking is badly soiled, wash it separately. Remove filling into a muslin or cheesecloth (three layers) bag. Fasten the loose end of the bag with pins or stitching. Wash and dry following directions above. When completely dry, return filling to original ticking.

Foam. Wash foam pillows by hand in warm mild detergent suds. Squeeze suds through thoroughly. Rinse several times in warm water. Dry flat in a warm place or place in bag or pillowcase and line dry. Prolonged exposure to air and heat will cause foam rubber pillows to deteriorate.

Blankets

Remove surface dirt by shaking and brushing. Rinse in cool water to remove soil lodged in fiber. Prepare lukewarm suds using a mild or all-purpose detergent. Immerse the blanket and work gently in the suds with as little agitation as possible. Soak wool blankets only, do not agitate. If necessary, wash in a second suds. Rinse in several changes of lukewarm water. Hang blankets over two lines or dry them in an automatic dryer with several clean bath towels which are dry and have been preheated. While still damp, brush blankets on both sides to lift the nap. Electric blankets should always be line dried and gently stretched into their original size and shape.

Quilts and Comforters

Wash lightweight quilts as you would wool blankets. Dry outdoors in the sun, if possible, to remove any unpleasant odor. Thick comforters may need to be taken apart, and the cover and filling each washed separately.

Contact your extension agent, for more information.

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